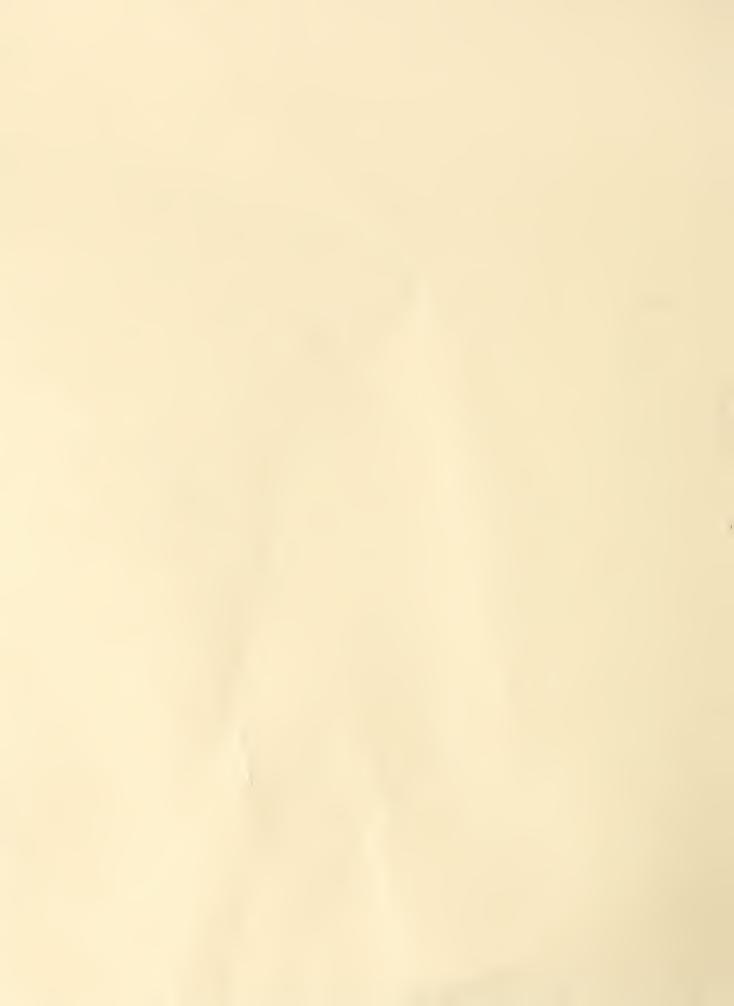
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## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Agricultural Marketing Service Washington, D. C.



COTTON MEASUREMENT DATA RELATING TO GRADE STANDARDS FOR COTTON AND COTTON LINTERS

Washington, D. C. May 1956



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## COLOR MEASUREMENT DATA RELATING TO GRADE STANDARDS FOR COTTON AND COTTON LINTERS

By Dorothy Nickerson, Cotton Division

This report consists of a series of diagrams and tables that provide background information and illustrate the progress of grade standards work from 1950 to 1956 through color measurements which have been obtained by use of the Nickerson-Hunter Cotton Colorimeter. The titles of the diagrams are designed to tell the story, and the sequence to provide background information for what follows. The diagrams and tables are grouped as shown.

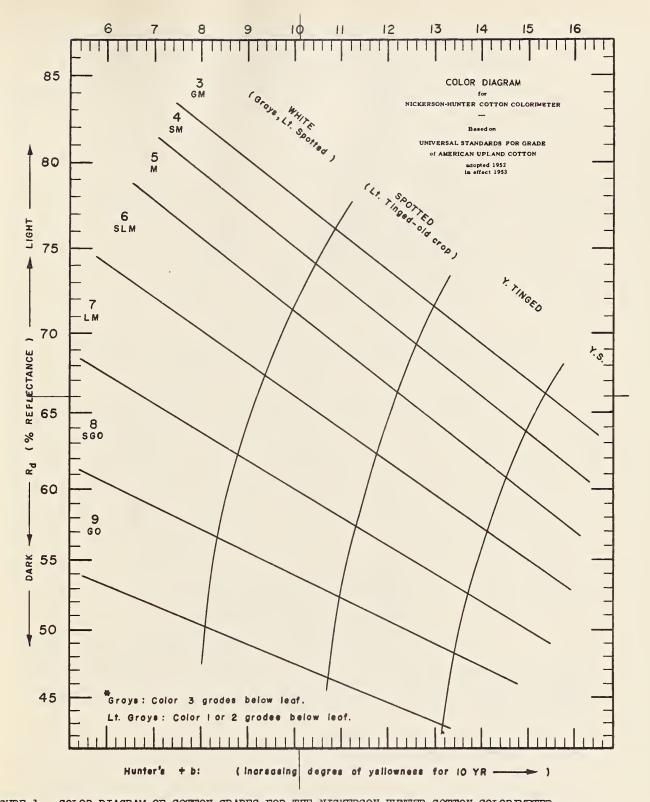
- Figures 1 7 General background information.
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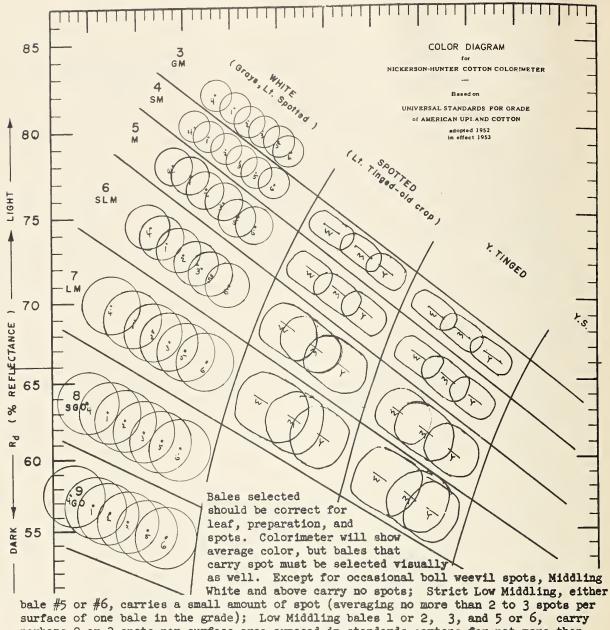
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'IGURE 1.--COLOR DIAGRAM OF COTTON GRADES FOR THE NICKERSON-HUNTER COTTON COLORIMETER.

Color has three dimensions (hue, lightness, and chroma) but hue is so nearly constant for cotton that measurements of lightness and chroma are sufficient to define the color of cotton grades. Hunter scales used in this instrument are indicated in a vertical direction by percent reflectance (R<sub>d</sub>), which measures the lightness of a sample, and in a horizontal direction by Hunter's +b which, for this instrument, indicates the degree of yellowness (with hue constant) and thus provides a measure of chroma. High grades are toward the top of the diagram, low grades toward the bottom; gray colors are toward the left, and tinged or stained colors toward the right The original of this diagram fits over the diagram on the instrument, so that indicated points may be plotted directly.

Guides for purchase of bales for standards. Dots (white grades) and short lines (spots and tinges) represent color positions wanted. Circles and ellipses indicate range of samples expected within purchased bales.



perhaps 2 or 3 spots per surface area exposed in standards cartons for not more than half of the cartons in any one grade.



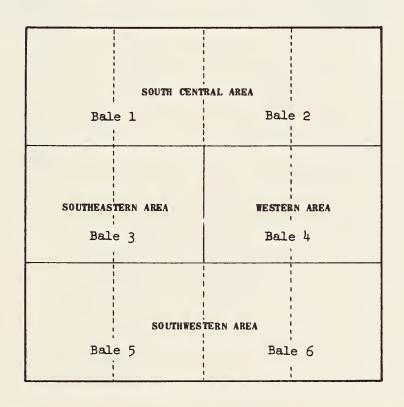
Bale positions 1,2 represent S.Central cottons; 3, Southeast; 4, West; 5,6,Southwest. For Spots and Tinges three colors W(hite), M(edium); and Y(ellow) are required.

FIGURE 2 .- - COLOR GUIDE FOR PURCHASE OF BALES FOR COTTON GRADE STANDARDS.

This guide is based on standards adopted in 1953 that were, in turn, based on crop survey data available for many years. Color for positions in White grades is based on the relation of the average grade color for cottons grown and classed in four cotton areas over a period of many years.

SOUTH CE	TRAL AREA Bale 2	southeastern area Bale 3
Western Area Bale 4	SOUTHWEST Bale 5	TERN AREA Bale 6

### GUIDE BOXES FOR GRADE OF AMERICAN UPLAND COTTON



#### UNIVERSAL STANDARDS FOR AMERICAN UPLAND COTTON

FIGURE 3.--LOCATION OF SAMPLES FOR WHITE GRADES IN 6 AND 12 SAMPLE OFFICIAL BOXES BY AREA OF GROWTH.

Six bales are used. The bale numbers indicate the position in the 6-sample guide box; large boxes contain the same bales, but two samples of each.

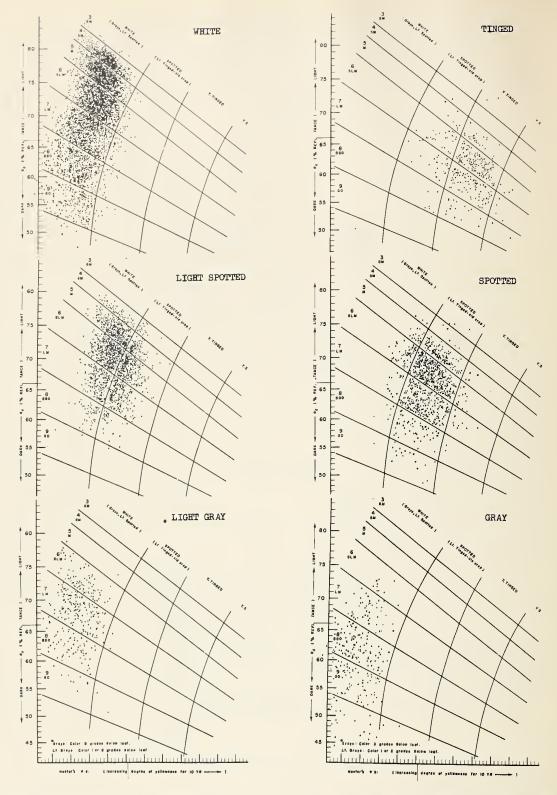


FIGURE 4.--CROP DATA FOR 1955. This is typical of information available for many past years. Each dot represents a sample classed in the color group indicated: White, Tinged (for both of which there are standards in physical form), Light Spotted, Spotted, Light Gray, Gray. The color diagram is based on the grade standards for White and Tinged cottons in use since 1953.

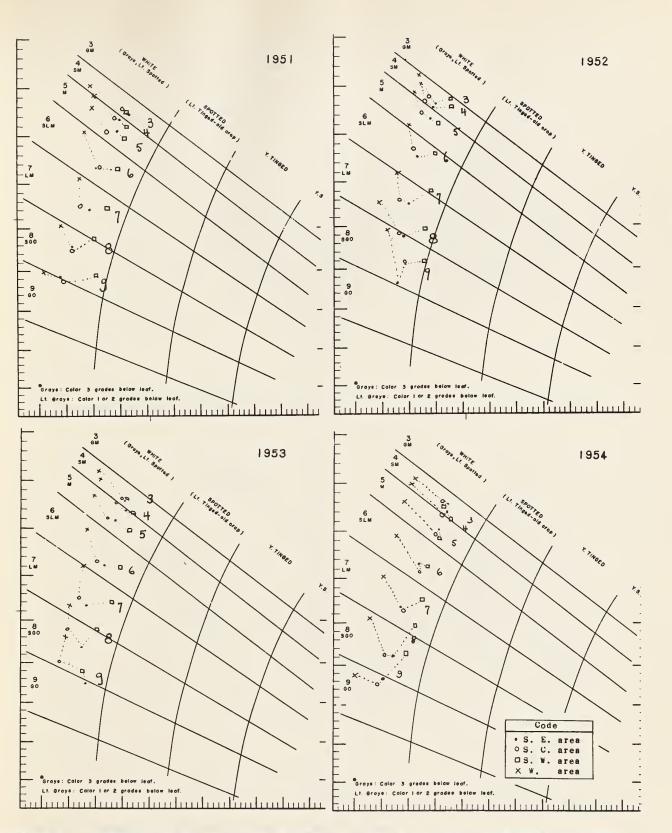


FIGURE 5.--AVERAGE COLOR OF WHITE GRADES OF COTTON AS THEY HAVE BEEN CLASSED IN FOUR AREAS FOR TYPICAL CROP YEARS, 1951 THROUGH 1954.

As shown, the Western Area cotton is the whitest or grayest in each grade, and the Southwestern Area cotton is the creamiest or yellowest.

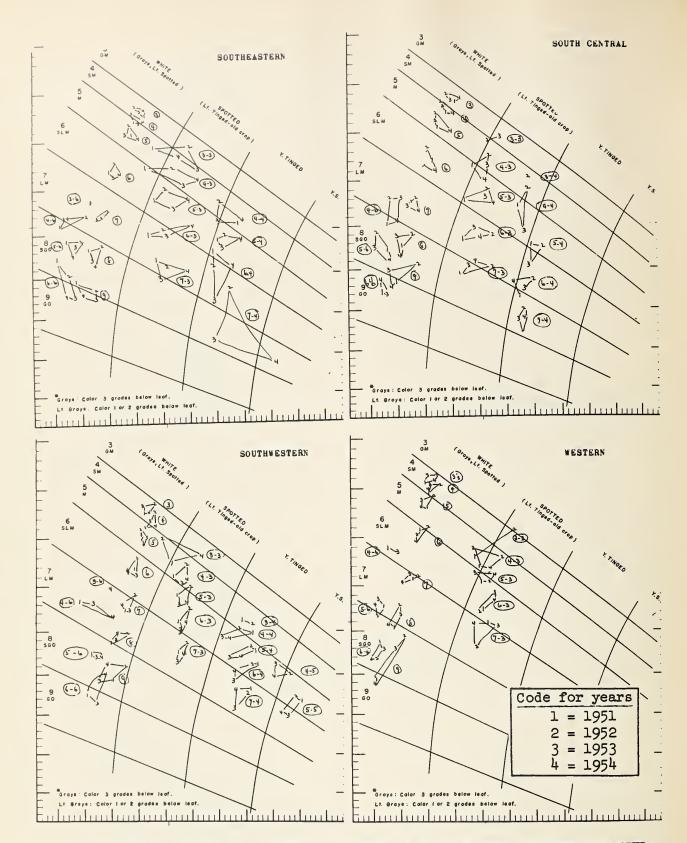


FIGURE 6.--AVERAGE COLOR OF COTTONS CLASSED IN PLUS GRADES, SPOTTED, TINGED, AND GRAYS, BY AREAS FOR FOUR CROP YEARS, 1951-1954.

Circled numbers represent the usual code for grades: 3 to 9 = M to GO. This is combined with numbers 3 for Spotted, 4 for Tinged, 5 for Stained, 6 for Gray, 9 for Light Spotted, and 8 for Light Gray. E.g., 5 is M, 5-3 is M Sp., 5-5 M St., 5-6 M Gray, 5-9 M Lt. Sp., and 5-8 M Lt.Gray.

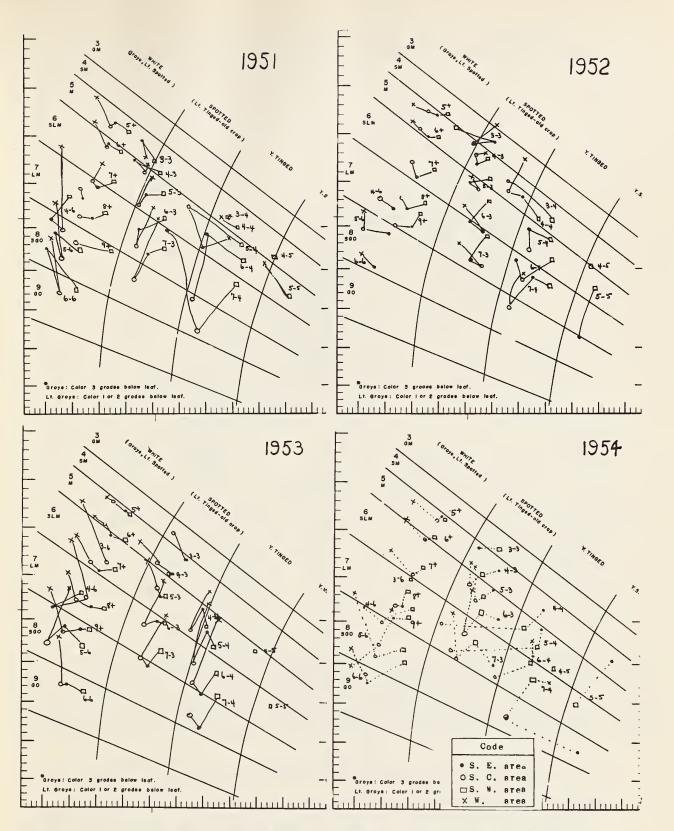


FIGURE 7.--AVERAGE COLOR OF COTTONS CLASSED IN FOUR AREAS FOR YEARS 1951-1954.

Data are for plus grades, Spotted, Tinged, and Grays.

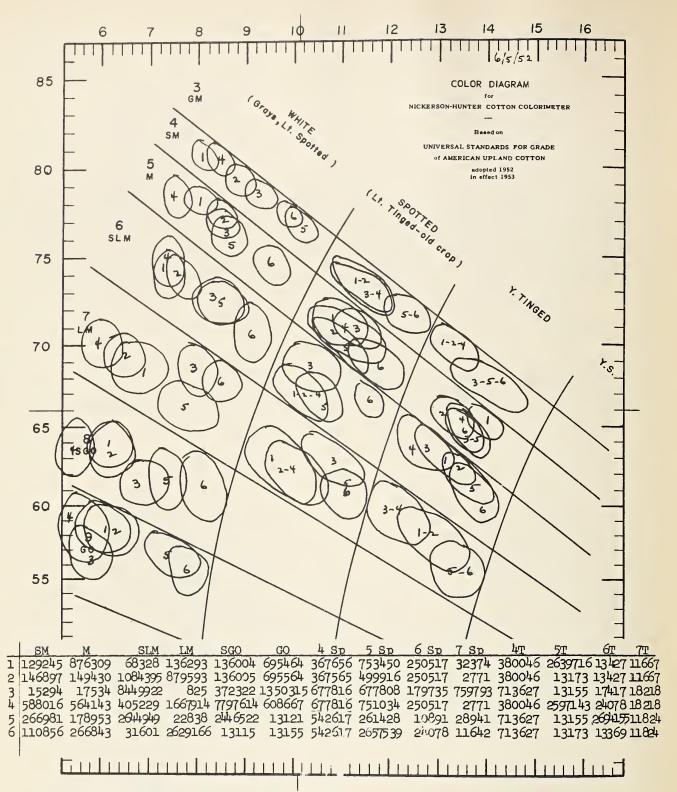


FIGURE 8.--BALES PURCHASED ON BASIS OF FIGURE 2 THAT WERE USED IN PREPARING GRADE STANDARDS ADOPTED IN 1952.

The Original Set, #101, was selected from boxes put up from these bales.

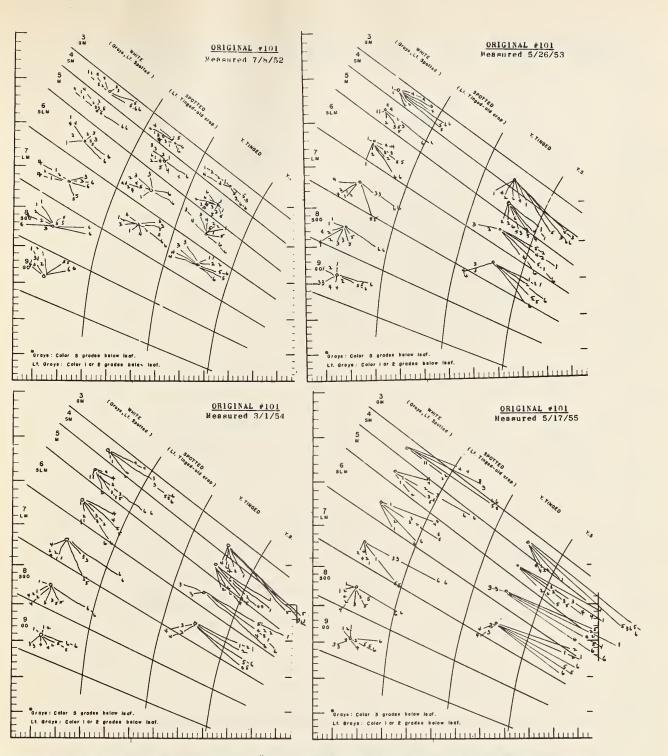


FIGURE 9.--ORIGINAL STANDARD, SET #101, FOR WHITE AND TINGED GRADES AS MEASURED AT TIME OF ADOPTION IN 1952, AND EACH YEAR FOLLOWING, 1953, 1954, 1955. (For 1956 see next figure.)

Each year the color change increased until in 1956 some or all samples in every grade except Good Ordinary have yellowed so much that they no longer are in the correct category. The small numbers indicate the bale positions.

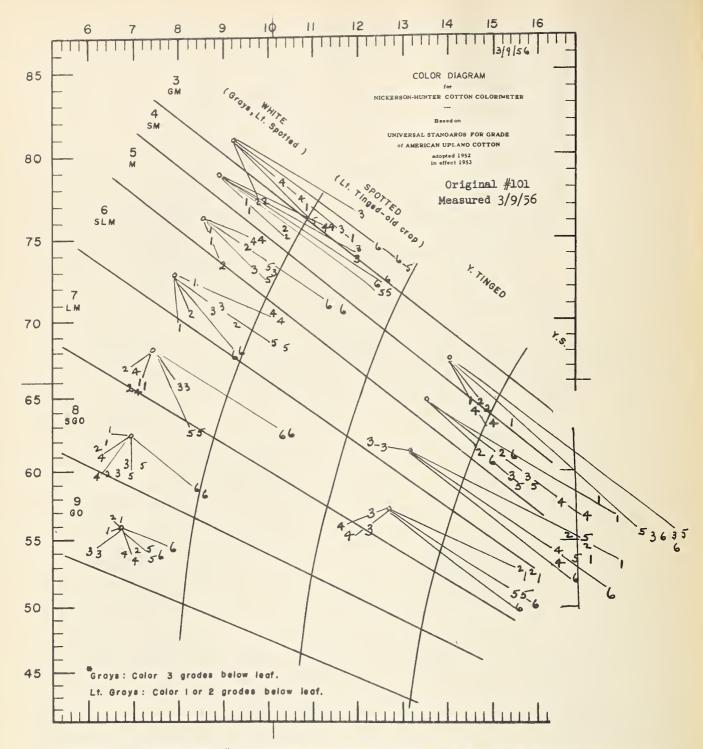


FIGURE 10.--ORIGINAL SET #101 OF WHITE AND TINGED STANDARDS AS THEY WERE MEASURED MARCH 1956, ABOUT 3-1/2 YEARS AFTER THE ORIGINAL MEASUREMENT OF JULY 1952.

The Good Middling Original was adopted 1953, effective 1954; it also shows great change.

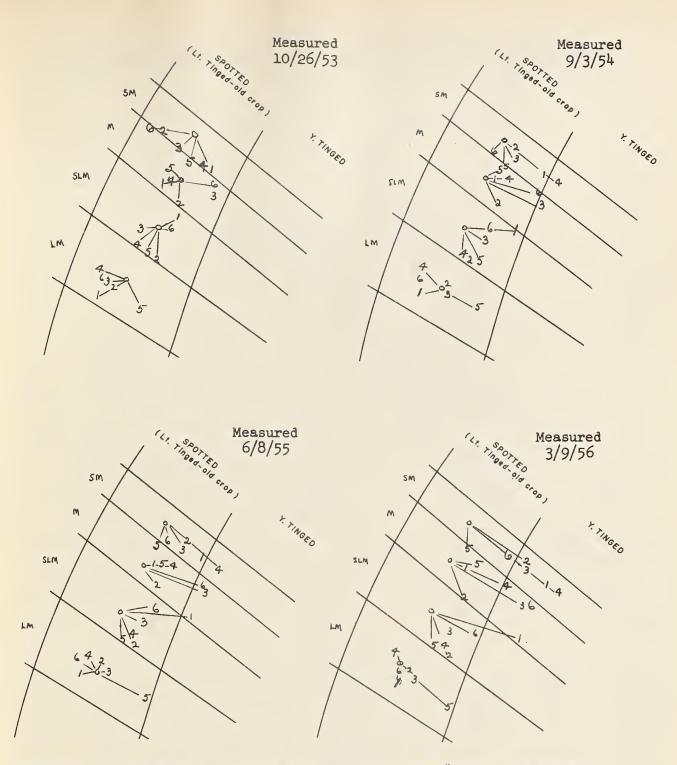


FIGURE 11.--COLOR MEASUREMENTS OF SPOTTED GUIDE, SET #00225, PUT ASIDE AS A RESERVE SET, AS MEASURED PERIODICALLY SINCE 1953.

Measurements are as made at the time Spotted Guides first were shipped, then each year later, at intervals of 11, 20, and 29 months. While these Spotted Guides show less change than sets of 1953 White and Tinged standards, this is not necessarily typical, for on the basis of other measurements it is expected that the pattern of change in Spotted cottons should fit in with the pattern of change for the White and Tinged cottons.

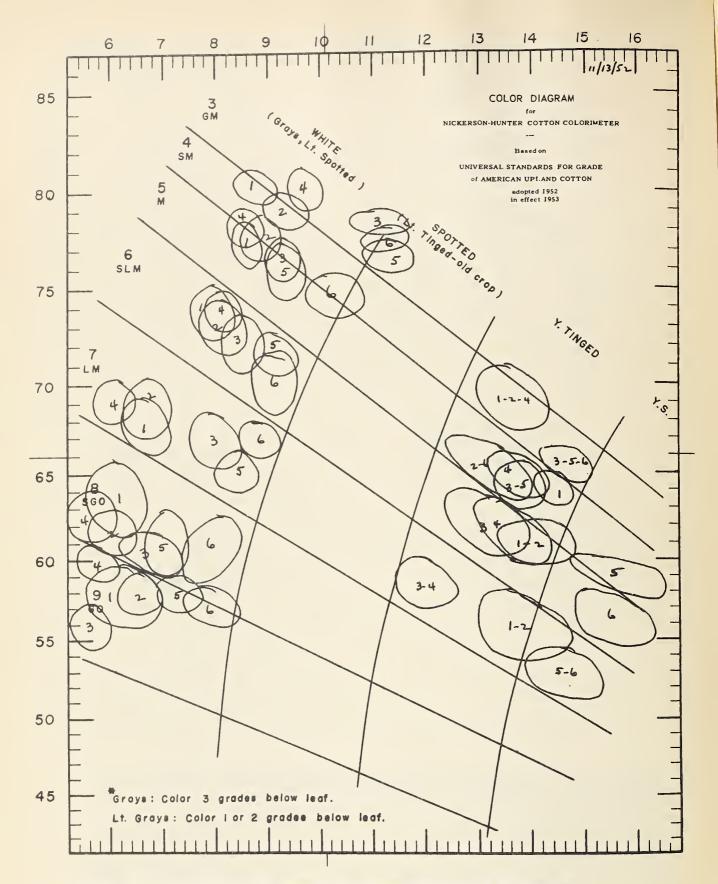
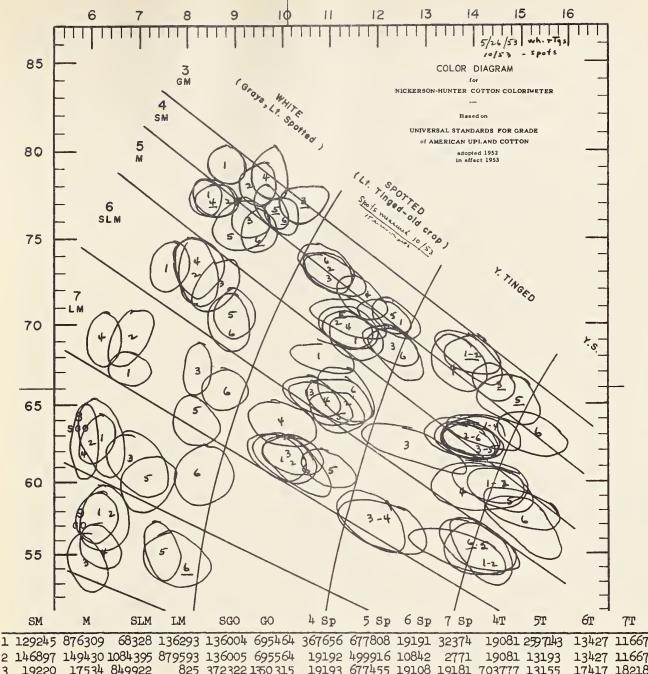


FIGURE 12.--ORIGINAL BALES, AFTER 1952 SUMMER STORAGE IN WASHINGTON.

These measurements, made November 1952, already indicate color change.



1 129245 876309 68328 136293 136004 695464 367656 677808 19191 32374 19081 2597443 13427 11667
2 146897 149430 1084395 879593 136005 695564 19192 499916 10842 2771 19081 13193 13427 11667
3 19220 17534 849922 825 372322 1350315 19193 677455 19108 19181 703777 13155 17417 18218
4 588016 564143 405229 16679147797614 608667 19159 19118 19108 19122 380046 2597143 24078 18218
5 19067 178953 2644949 22838 2446522 13121 542617 677808 10891 250578 19090 13155 2694155 18600
6 19066 172953 31601 2629166 13115 13120 19193 550024 179735 2771713627 13173 13369 18958

FIGURE 13.--BALES USED IN 1953 CONFERENCE BOXES. Underlined bale positions already had to be replaced because of color change from bales in original box.

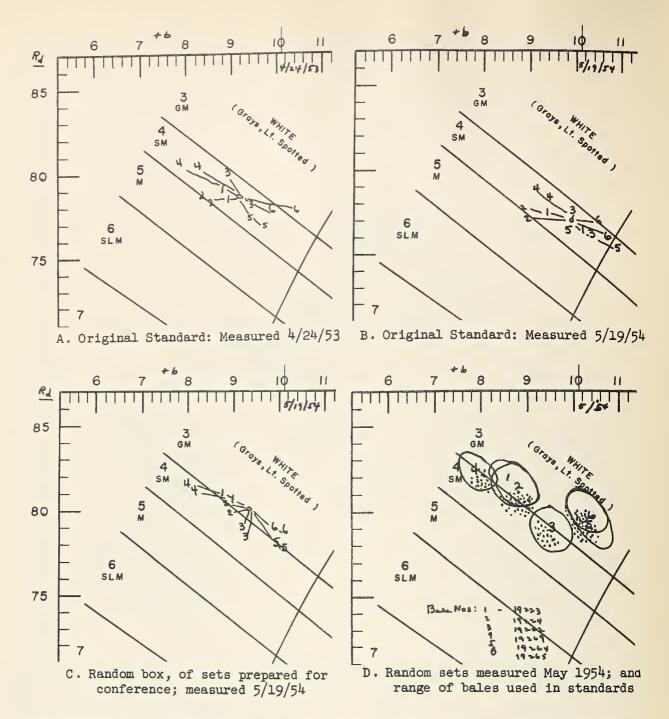


FIGURE 14.--COLOR OF GOOD MIDDLING STANDARDS. A, Original, measured April 1953; B, Original, measured May 1954 (already shows considerable yellowing); C, Random box from sets prepared for 1954 conference, measured May 1954; D, Random sets measured May 1954, together with range of entire bales as used in standards.

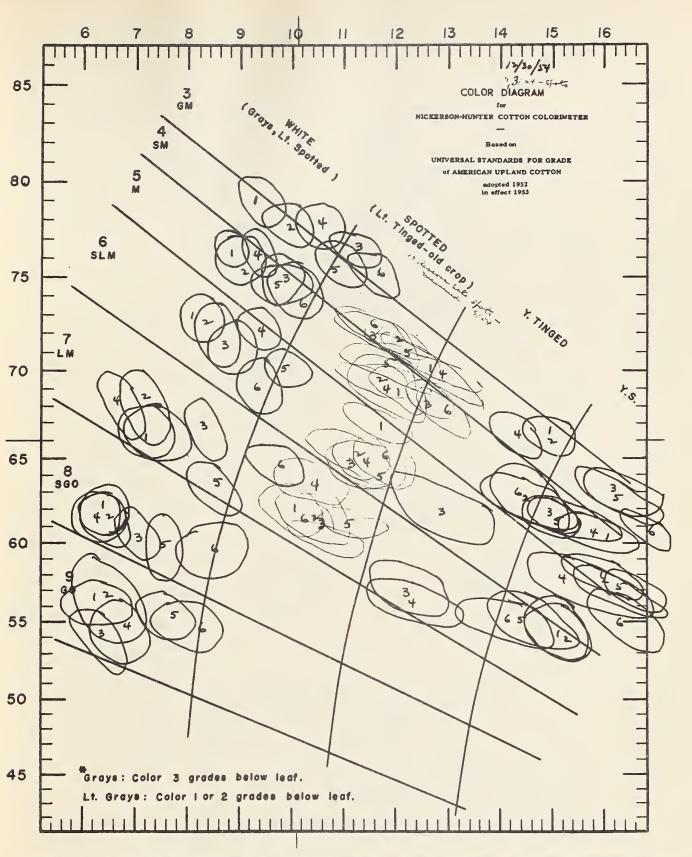


FIGURE 15.--RANGE OF 10 KEY SETS OF 1953 WHITE AND TINGED STANDARDS BOXES UNOPENED UNTIL MEASURED DECEMBER 1954, AND 15 SETS OF SPOTTED GUIDE BOXES MEASURED SEPTEMBER 1954.

Note continued yellowing as compared to either figure 8, the original standards bales,

or figure 13, the same samples in 1953.

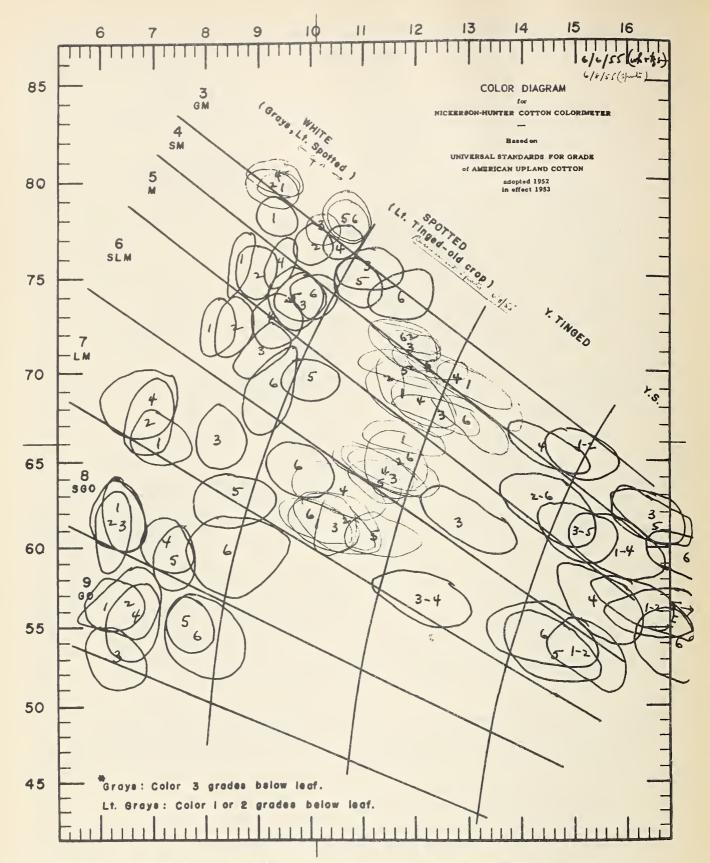


FIGURE 16.--RANGE OF 15 KEY SETS OF 1953 STANDARDS, AND OF RESERVE SETS OF SPOTTED BOXES, AS REMEASURED JUNE 1955.

Note continued yellowing as compared to figures 8, 13, and 15.

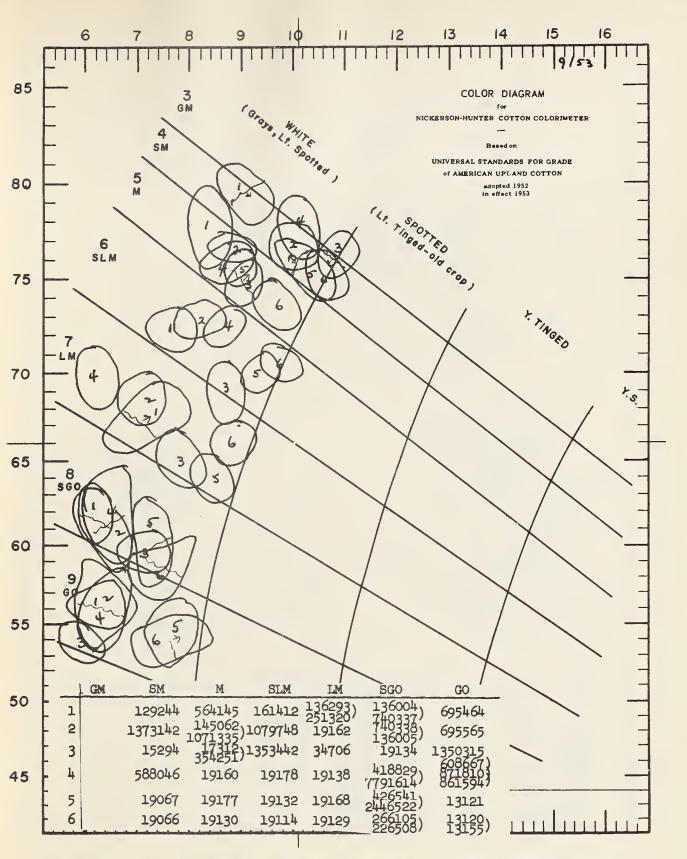


FIGURE 17 .-- RANDOM SETS OF WHITE GRADES BEFORE PHOTOGRAPHING, SEPTEMBER 1953.

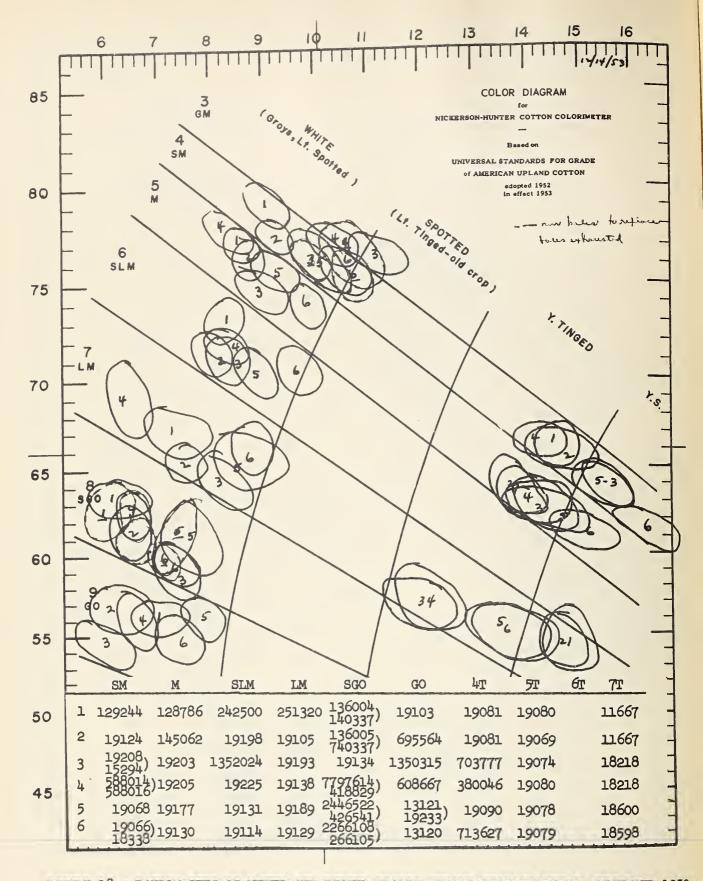


FIGURE 18.--RANDOM SETS OF WHITE AND TINGED GRADES BEFORE PHOTOGRAPHING, DECEMBER 1953.

Already the Tinged were so very much yellowed that the SLM Tinge could no longer be shipped, and the other Tinges were in question, as well as several White bales that were creeping toward the Spotted grades.

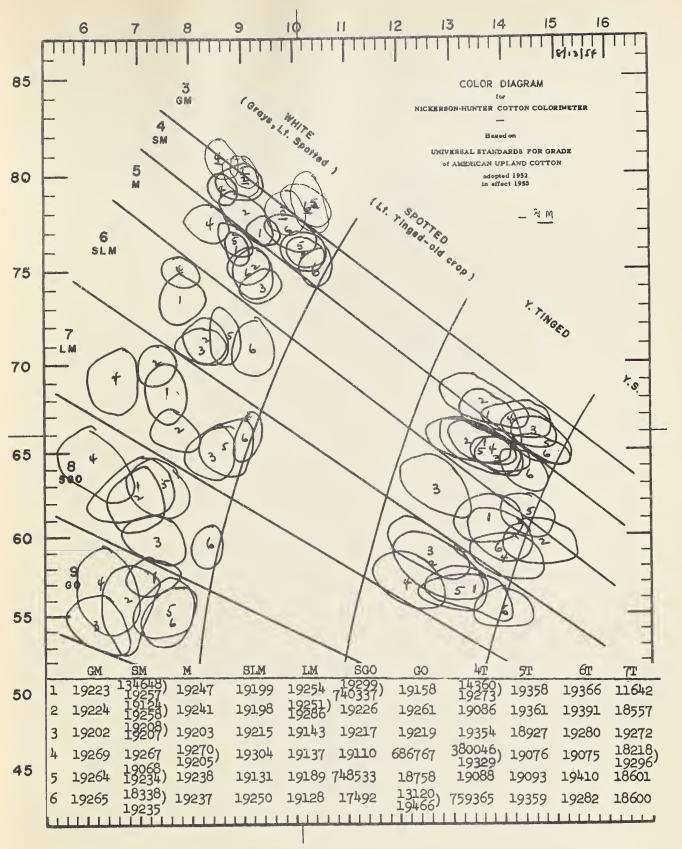


FIGURE 19 .-- RANDOM SETS BEFORE PHOTOGRAPHING, AUGUST 1954.

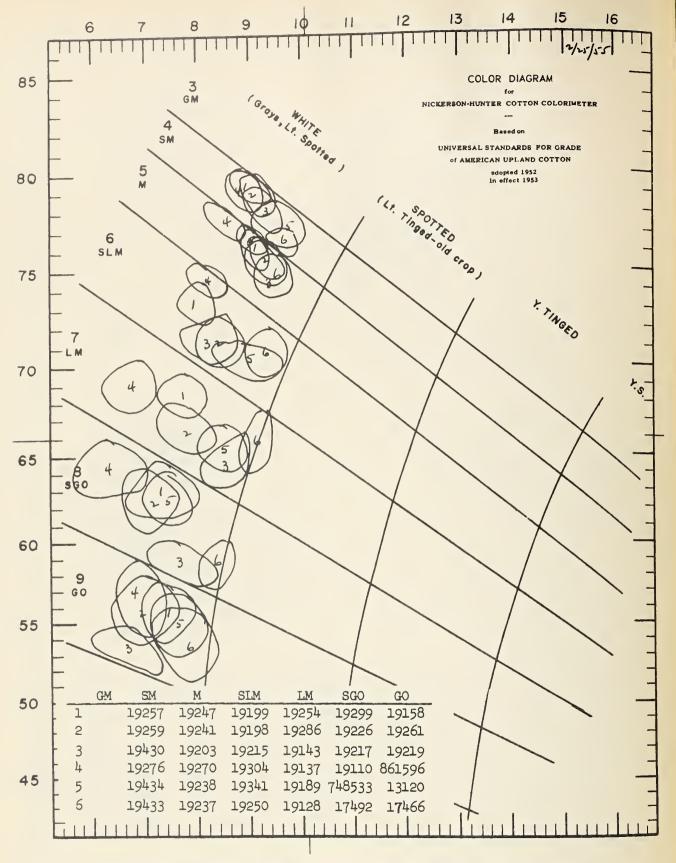


FIGURE 20. -- RANDOM SETS BEFORE PHOTOGRAPHING, FEBRUARY 1955.

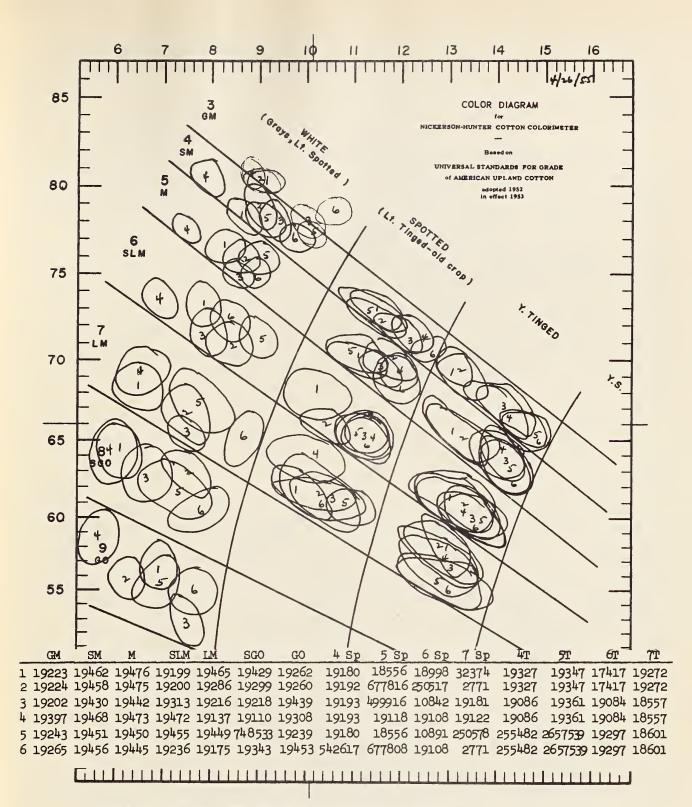


FIGURE 21.--RANDOM SETS BEFORE PHOTOGRAPHING, APRIL 1955.

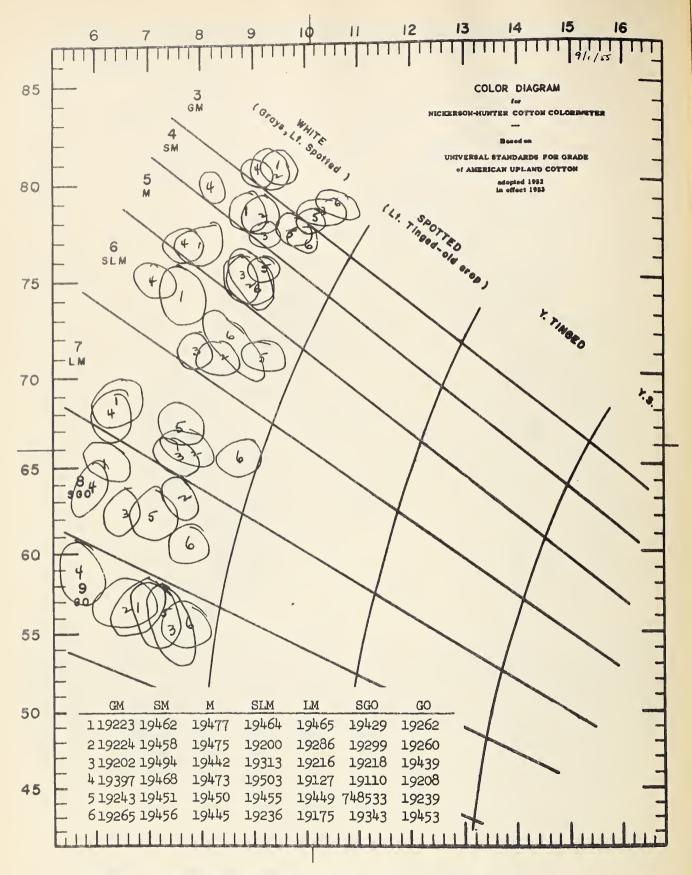


FIGURE 22.--RANDOM SETS BEFORE PHOTOGRAPHING, SEPTEMBER 1955.

Table 1 .-- Number of samples put up out of typical 1956 standards bales.

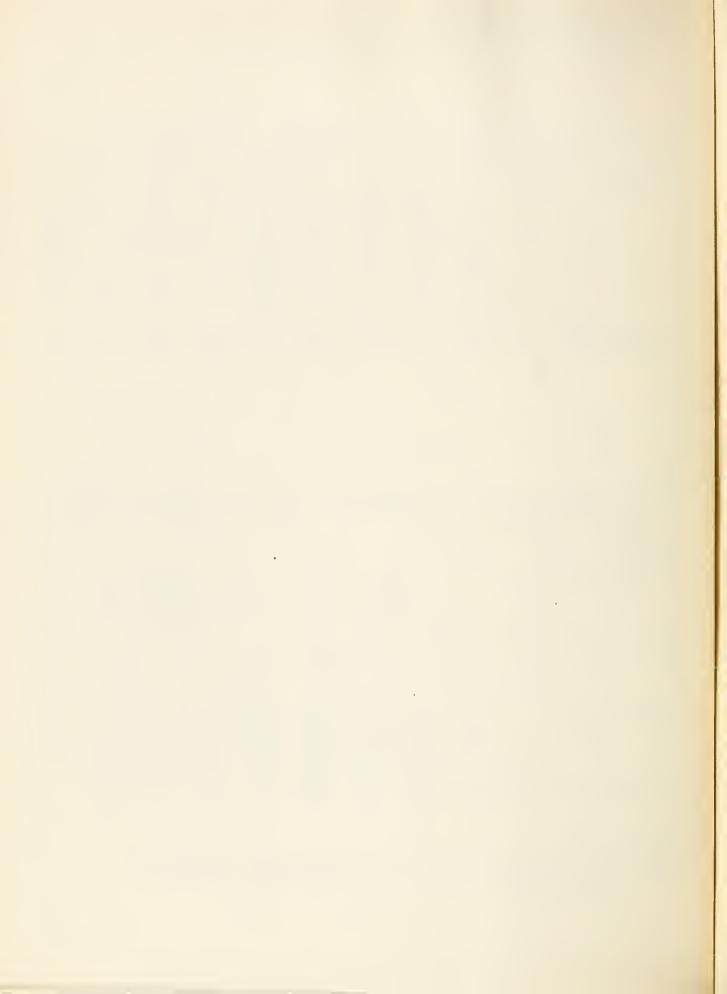
Bale position	GM	SM	М	SLM	LM	SGO	GO	4 <b>T</b>	<i>5</i> T	6r	7T
1	1416	1404	1188	1044	1164	1836	1272	1212	1572	1020	1572
2	1980	1968	1764	984	1296	1212	1044				0.0
3	1404	1488	1236	1380	1428	1776	1200	1272	(1042M 451Y	1368	(828M 252Y
14	1188	900	1740	1080	816	1188	1728		· +)11		12)21
5	996	1488	1092	1188	1020	948	1320	1020	1212	1224	960
6	960	1092	1176	1092	1416	1404	888				
Average	1324	1390	1366	1128	1190	1394	1242	1168	1420	1204	1204

Table 2.--Number of large and small boxes of each grade shipped for three years, 1953-1955, with total number of samples\* required for each bale position.

Year	No. shipped	GM	SM	М	SLM	LM	SGO	GO	4 <b>T</b>	51	6T	7T
1953	Large boxes Small boxes	-	744 477	873 606	831 592	690 474	426 322	292 199	138 119	150 149	130 128	116 99
	Total samples	-	1965	2352	2254	1854	1174	783	395	449	388	331
1954	Large boxes Small boxes	223 115	267 261	325 316	305 303	244 263	172 181	138 129	69 78	74 84	76 77	63 70
	Total samples	561	795	966	918	751	525	405 .	216	232	229	196
1955	Large boxes Small boxes	167 121	389 378	473 451	452 447	350 392	240 256	180 195	90 82	93 91	86 87	77 81
	Total samples	455	1156	1397	1351	1092	736	555	262	277	259	235

<sup>\*</sup> In White grades, large boxes have 2 samples for each position, small boxes have 1 sample.

NOTE: The information in the above two tables makes it possible to estimate amount of stock for current and future needs.



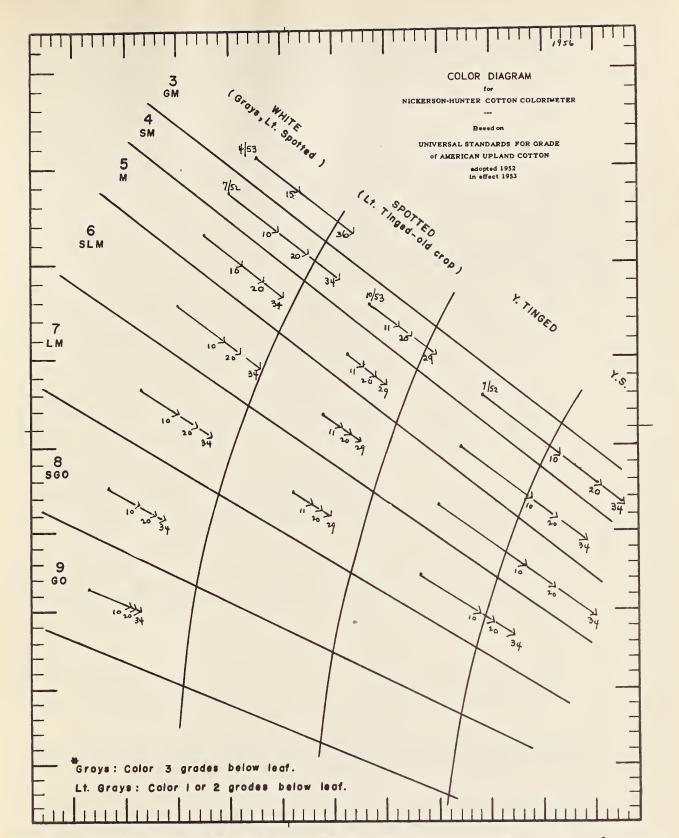


FIGURE 23.--AVERAGE COLOR CHANGE IN STORAGE FOR ORIGINAL STANDARDS AND GUIDES: 36 MONTHS FOR CM WHITE, 34 MONTHS FOR SM TO GO WHITE AND SM TO LM TINGE, 29 MONTHS FOR SPOTTED. The number of months between measurements is indicated below each arrow.

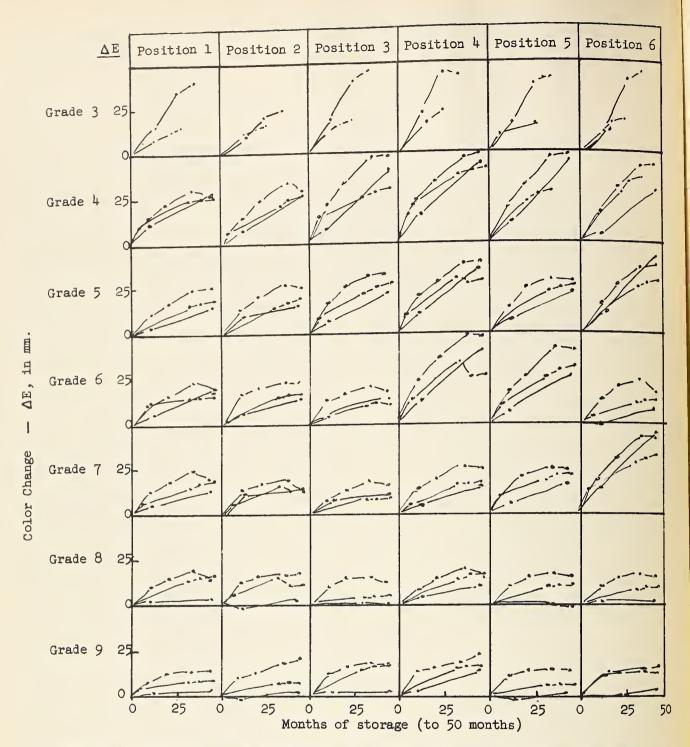


FIGURE 24.--COLOR CHANGE OF WHITE GRADE STANDARDS IN STORAGE INDICATED IN UNITS OF COLOR DIFFERENCE,  $\Delta$ E, (MEASURED IN mm. OF CHANGE ON INSTRUMENT GRADE DIAGRAM) BY NUMBER OF MONTHS HELD IN WASHINGTON.

Change is illustrated for each of 6 bale positions in standard grades. Top grades change more than low grades, and there seems more levelling off by the second year for the lower than for the higher grades.

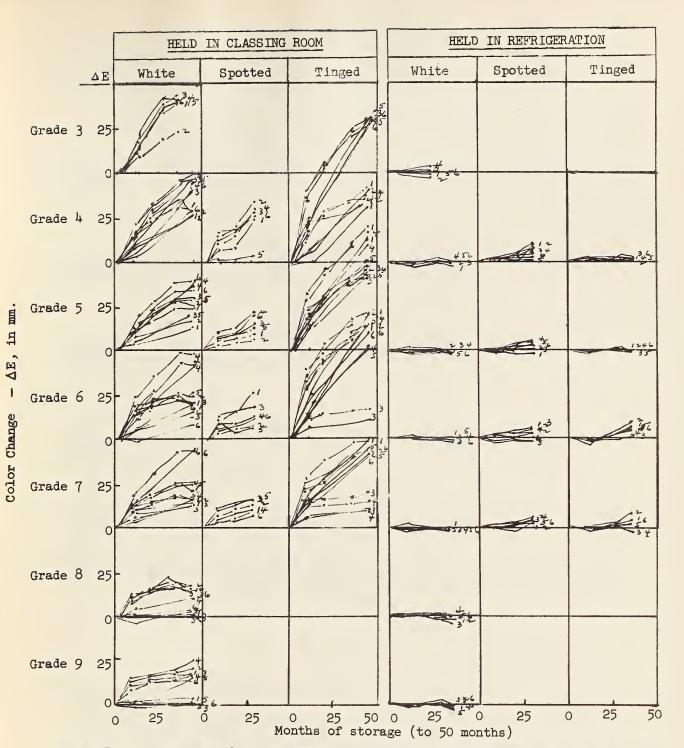


FIGURE 25.--COLOR CHANGE, △E, BY MONTES OF STORAGE, INDICATED FOR EACH BALE IN WHITE, SPOTTED, AND TINGED GRADES HELD IN WASHINGTON UNDER CLASSING ROOM CONDITIONS, AND UNDER REFRIGERATION AT ABOUT 38°.

Refrigeration either slows down, or inhibits, color change. A controlled experiment, under several conditions of humidity and temperature, will be carried out 1956-1959 on cottons accepted at 1956 conference, so that by 1959 it should be possible to specify optimum conditions for temperature and humidity control for storing cotton standards. These are not now known.

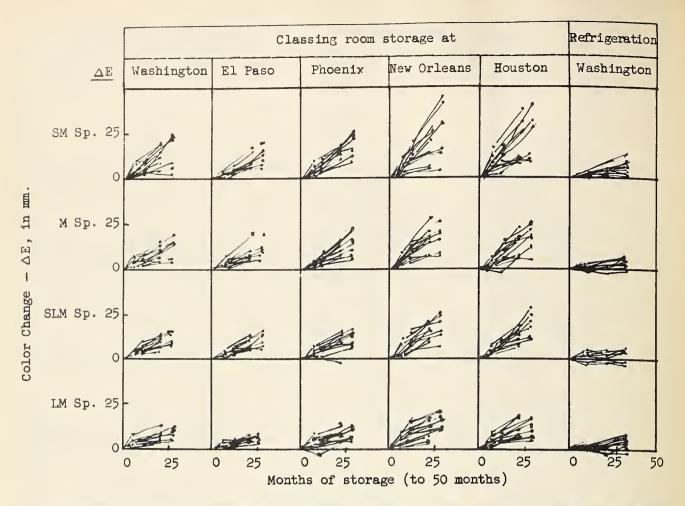


FIGURE 26.--COLOR CHANGE,  $\Delta$ E, BY MONTHS OF STORAGE, IN SETS OF SPOTTED GUIDE BOXES STORED IN SEVERAL LOCATIONS SINCE 1953 COTTON GRADE STANDARDS CONFERENCE.

Following storage in five classing rooms of Cotton Division and in refrigeration, about  $38^{\circ}$ , some sets were measured 8/53, 4/54, and 5/55 (a maximum of 21 months), others 8/53, 7/55, and 3/56 (a maximum of 29 months).

Colorimeter measure	ements	Class	sser Comparisons			
\$\frac{4}{5}  \text{\$\text{\$0\$}}		Classer 1 (HCS)	Classer 2	Classer 3		
5 M						
SLM	SM:	M 1 grade low	SM	M except #6		
7	М:	SLM 1 grade low	М	М		
LM 23 3 5	SLM:	1/2 grade low	SLM	SLM		
8 SGO R-5-3	LM:	SGO dusty	LM	LM		
9 60	SGO:	GO dusty	SGO	SGO		
3 4 6	GO:	GO equal dusty	GO	GO		

FIGURE 27.--COLORIMETER AND CLASSER COMPARISONS ON A TYPICAL SET OF WHITE STANDARDS RETURNED AFTER USE.

Although color definitely goes down as standards are used in classing rooms, classers seldom recognize it, for they recognize leaf and then assume color is unchanged. Color classed against such boxes may be too easy by a grade or more.

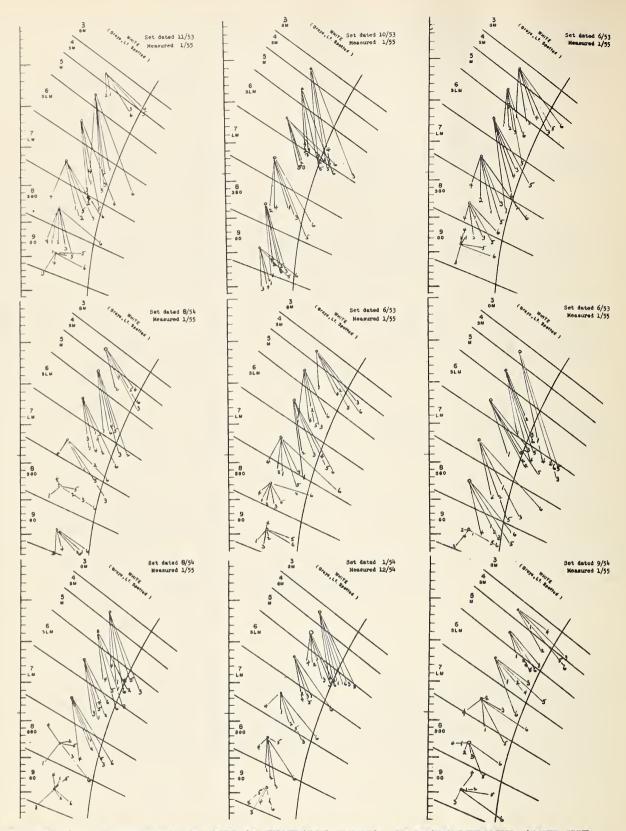


FIGURE 28.-MEASUREMENTS ON SETS OF STANDARDS TYPICAL OF THOSE RETURNED AFTER USE.

Each set shown is from a different office, with each classing area represented. A study in 1955 of returned standards shows that this amount of color change through dustiness, from being open in a classing room while in use, is not uncommon for standards used a great deal. This change, so easily overlooked, even by experienced classers, is another good reason why standards should not be used more than one season, sometimes no longer than one month. None of these boxes were more than 18 months old when returned for study. The dates of issue and of measurement after return are shown for each set.

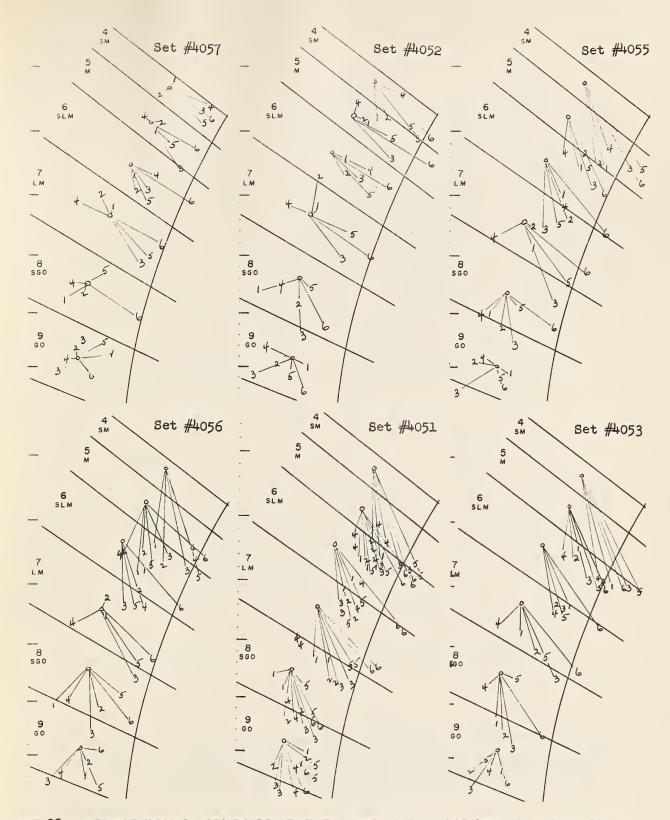
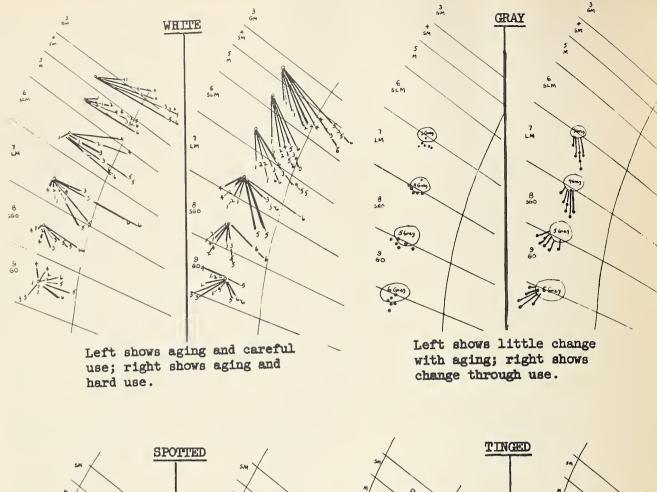


FIGURE 29.--MEASUREMENTS OF STANDARDS RETURNED AFTER USE IN ONE OFFICE IN ONE SEASON.

Most of them show hard use. They are arranged to show increasing amount of change caused by use.



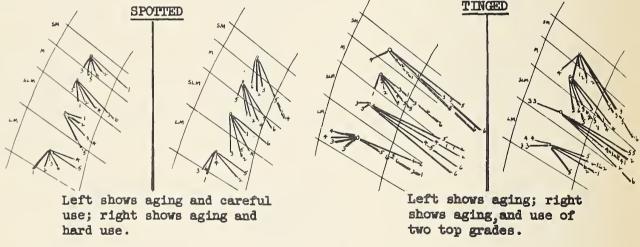
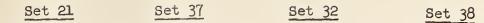


FIGURE 30.--MEASUREMENTS ON RETURNED STANDARDS, AFTER USE OF 18 MONTHS OR LESS.

Sets are shown in pairs to illustrate two types of change, yellowing by aging, and darkening by dustiness caused by use of standards.



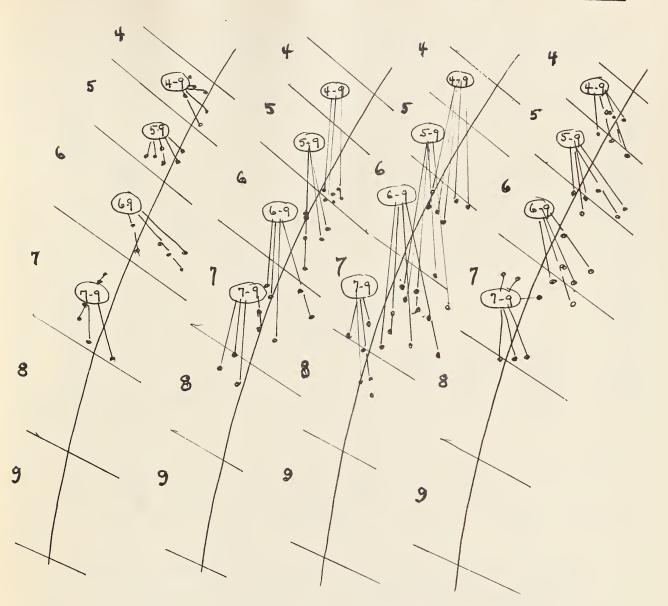


FIGURE 31.--COLORIMETRIC COMPARISONS ON TYPICAL SETS OF LIGHT SPOTTED BOXES RETURNED AFTER USE.

The grade number is circled at the color position of the bales originally used in these boxes. Set 21 shows little use; the others show change, the majority yellowing into Spotted color, also becoming low in color through dustiness. The figure 9 used with the grade number, is a code number for Light Spotted.

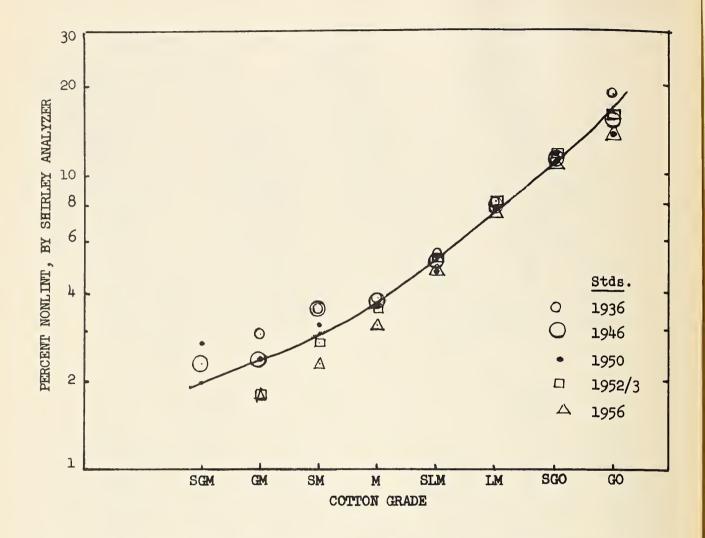


FIGURE 32.--TRASH ANALYSIS FOR BALES USED IN STANDARDS, 1936-1956.

See Note following table 4 for discussion and explanation.

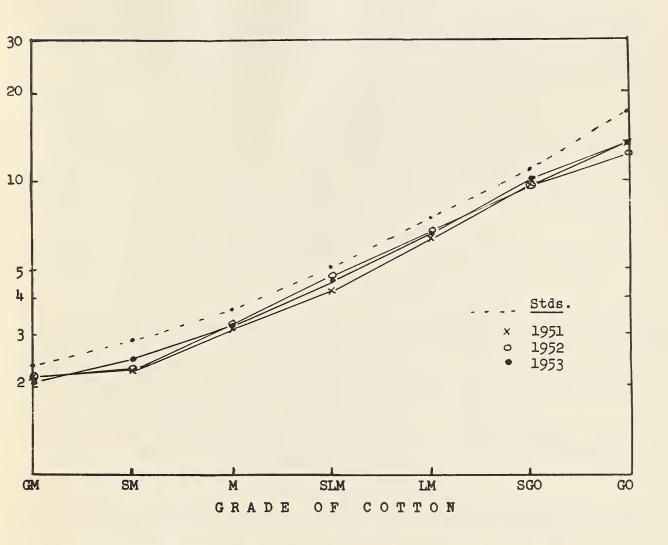


FIGURE 33.--TRASH (NONLINT) CONTENT OF COTTONS CLASSED IN WHITE GRADES: U. S. COTTON CROPS 1951-53.

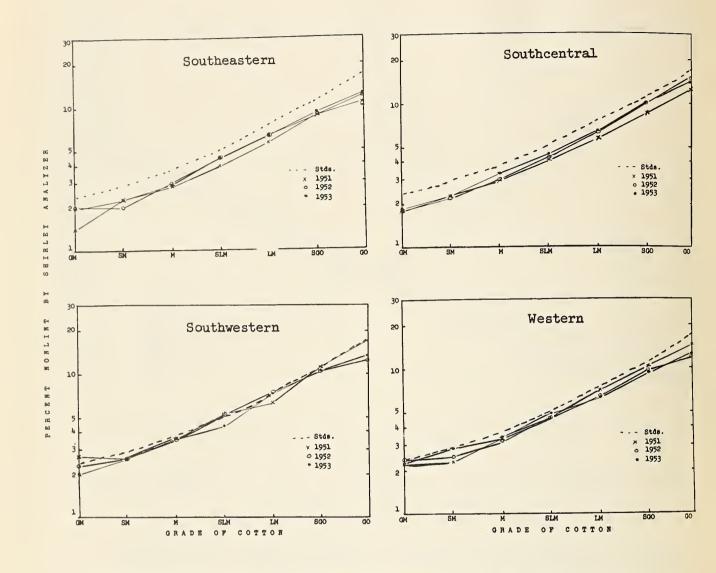


FIGURE 34.--TRASH (NONLINT) CONTENT OF COTTONS CLASSED IN WHITE GRADES: BY COTTON GROWING AREAS IN THE U.S., FOR THREE CROP YEARS.

Table 3.--Shirley Analyzer trash in grade standards bales, 1936, 1946, 1950, 1952/53, and 1956, and in grade surveys 1947, 1950, 1951, 1952, and 1953.

Year	GM	SM	М	SLM	LM	SGO	GO	
	Pct.							
Stds. bales								
1936	2.9	3.6	3.8	5.4	8.1	11.0	18.6	
1946	2.4	3.5	3.7	5.1	7.7	11.2	15.2	
1950	2.4	3.1	3.6	4.7	7.6	11.7	13.5	
1952/53	1.8	2.7	3.5	5.2	8.1	11.5	15.3	
1956	1.8	2.3	3.1	4.7	7.3	10.7	13.3	
Grade Survey								
1947	3.5	4.0	4.6	5.5	7.8	11.0	15.3	
1950	1.8			5.1	7.2	11.4	15.4	
1951	2.2	2.3	3.2			9.8	13.5	
1952	2.2	2.3		4.8		9.6	12.1	
1953	2.1	2.5	3.2	4.6	6.7	10.2	13.4	

Table 4.--Shirley Analyzer trash for top and bottom of bales in 1956 standards.

10010 +.	-Duri Tol	Parice. J	201	or centr	101	oop and	DO O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O	OI DOLL		-//	Doction of
Bale posi-	GM	SM	М	SLM	LM	SGO	GO	4T	5I	6r	ŢŢ
tion	Pct	. Pct.	Pct	Pct.	Pct	. Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Std.	2.4	2.9	3.7	5.1	7.6	11.0	17.0				
1						10.0				10.1	
2	2.2	_				11.6					
3						11.2					10.8
14	2.1	2.3					12.2				
5	1.7	_	3.4 3.0		6.9 7.1		16.4 17.7		3.8 4.0		8.7 8.7
6						14.2 11.8					
Average	1.8	2.3	3.1	4.7	7.3	10.7	13.3	3.5	5.1	9.5	8.6

NOTE: Compared to the average of past standards, bales for practically all 1956 grades are lighter in trash than intended when bales were purchased. Trash has had to be added to some boxes, but this has been kept to a minimum in order to hold to the principle of a natural standard.

Trash studies during the next three years (more intensive with a new Cotton Trash Meter) should provide information for judging whether current cleaning methods at the gin are resulting in so much less trash that adjustments need be made in standards.



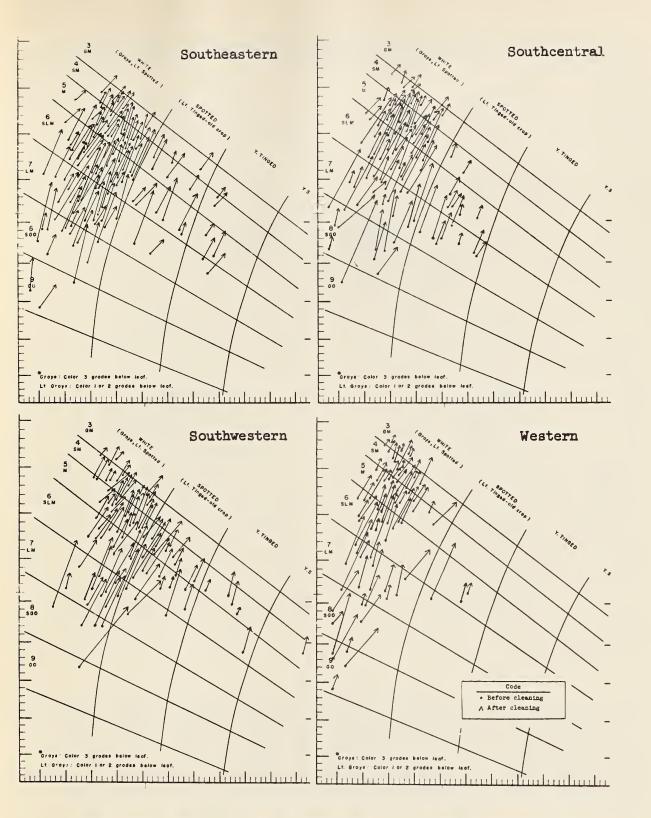


FIGURE 35.--COLOR OF LINT COTTON AFTER REMOVAL OF TRASH (NONLINT) CONTENT.

Color improvement in typical samples from the 1952 crop is shown by
measurements before and after cleaning on the Shirley Analyzer.

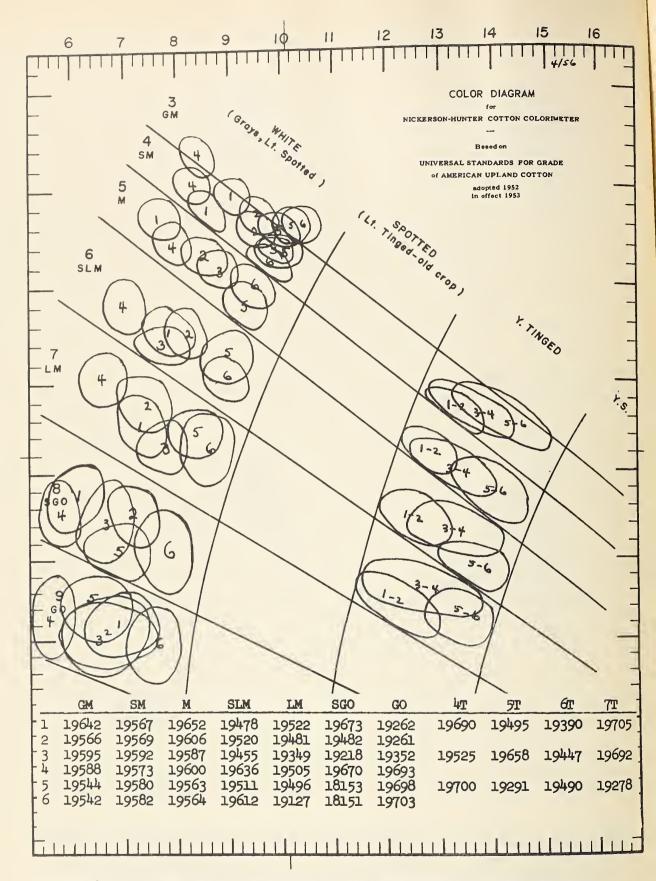


FIGURE 36.--RANGE OF COLOR IN 12-SAMPLE STANDARDS BOXES PUT UP FOR THE 1956 UNIVERSAL GRADE STANDARDS CONFERENCE.

These measurements were made on 110 sets of large boxes after they were put up for the conference.

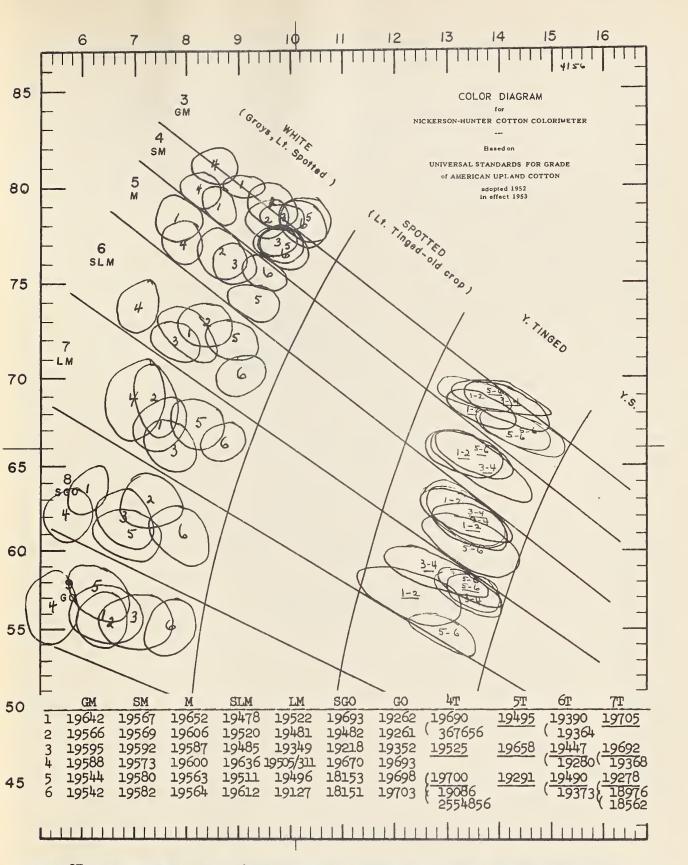


FIGURE 37 --- RANGE OF COLOR IN 6-SAMPLE GUIDE BOXES PUT UP FOR THE 1956 UNIVERSAL GRADE STANDARDS CONFERENCE.

These are based on 25 sets of small boxes. The same bales are used in both large and small boxes as long as the supply lasts, but in some cases, particularly in the Tinges, a second and even third bale had to be used to complete the large supply of boxes needed for the 1956 standards. (Bale numbers are given for USDA convenience.)

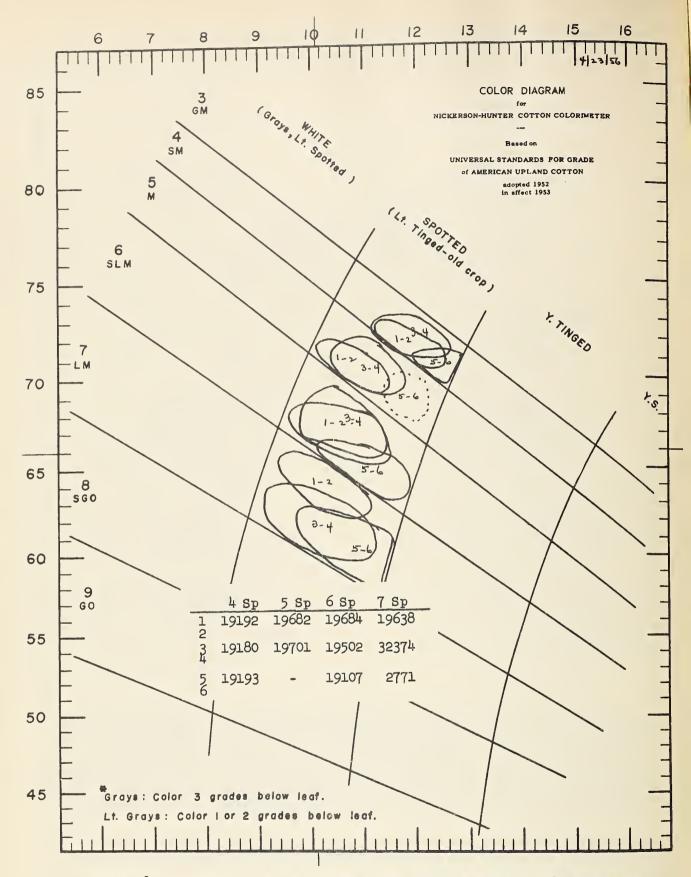


FIGURE 38.--RANGE OF COLOR IN SPOTTED BOXES PUT UP FOR THE 1956 CONFERENCE. For Middling Spotted the 5-6 position is intended to be as shown in the dotted area. The bale put up in this position was not satisfactory, and a new bale was thereafter bought to replace it. It had not been received when this diagram was prepared.

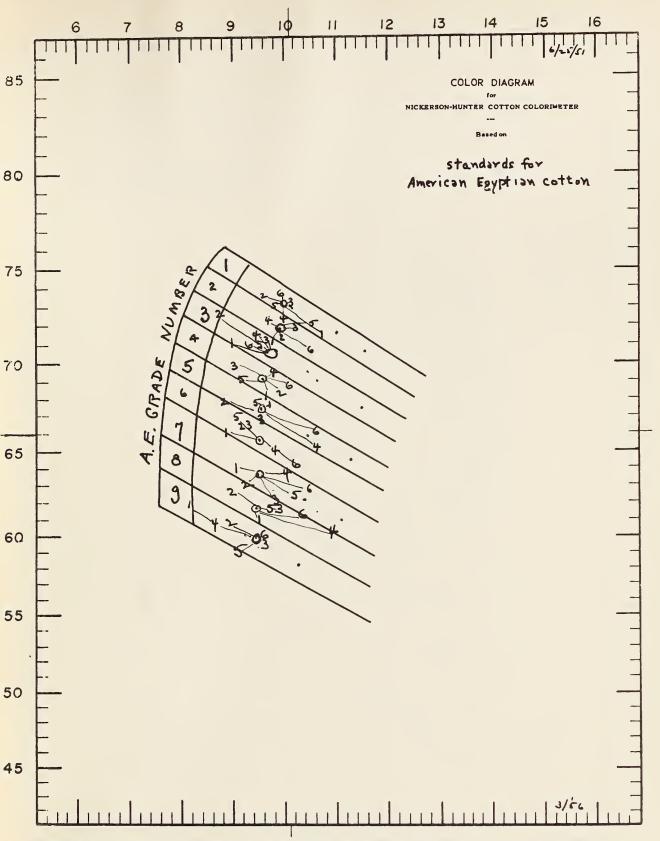


FIGURE 39.--ORIGINAL STANDARDS FOR GRADE OF AMERICAN EGYPTIAN COTTON, 1951.

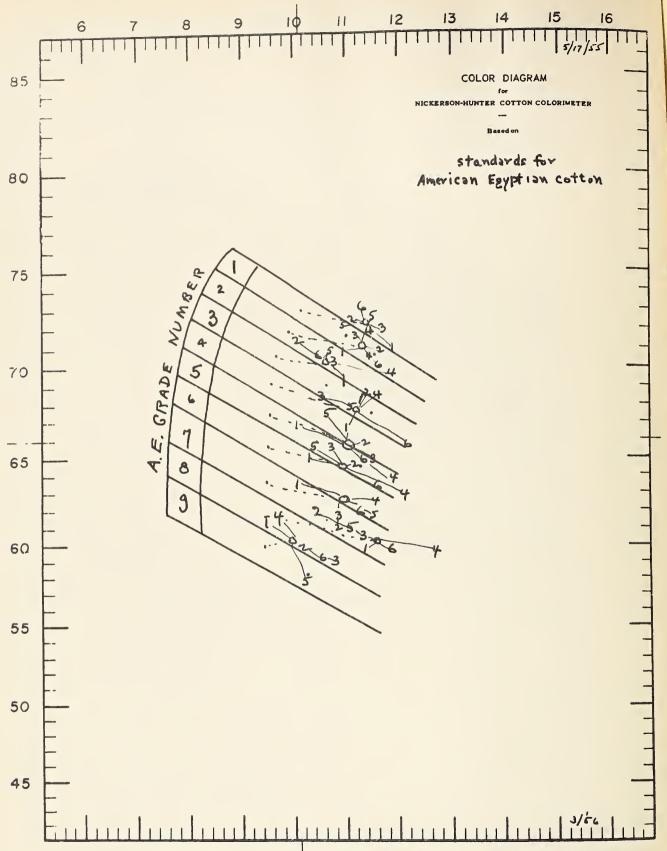


FIGURE 40.--ORIGINAL STANDARDS FOR GRADE OF AMERICAN EGYPTIAN COTTON, AS MEASURED MAY 1955, FOUR YEARS AFTER IT WAS ORIGINALLY PREPARED.

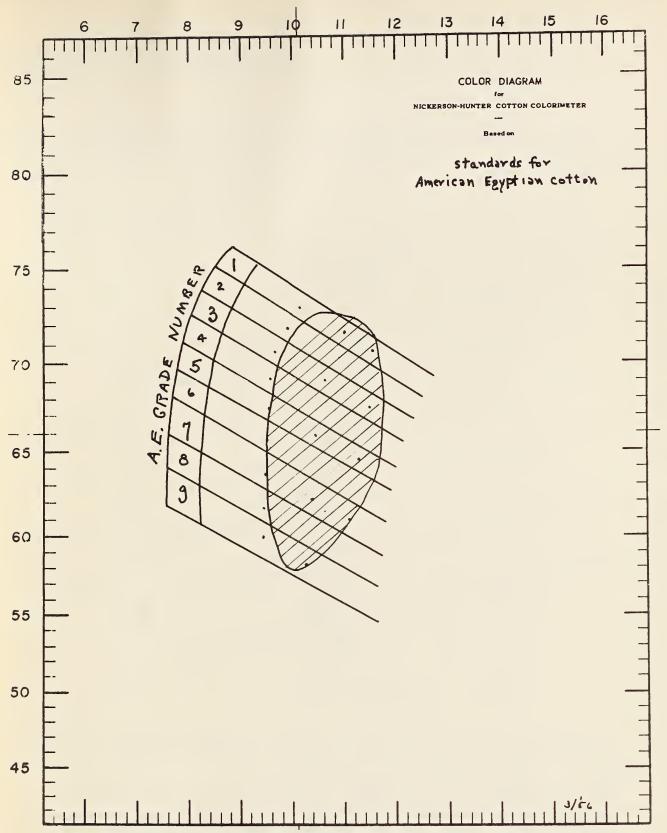


FIGURE 41.--RANGE OF COLOR OF AMERICAN EGYPTIAN COTTONS, GRADE SURVEY OF 1955 CROP SHOWN IN SHADED SECTION OF DIAGRAM.

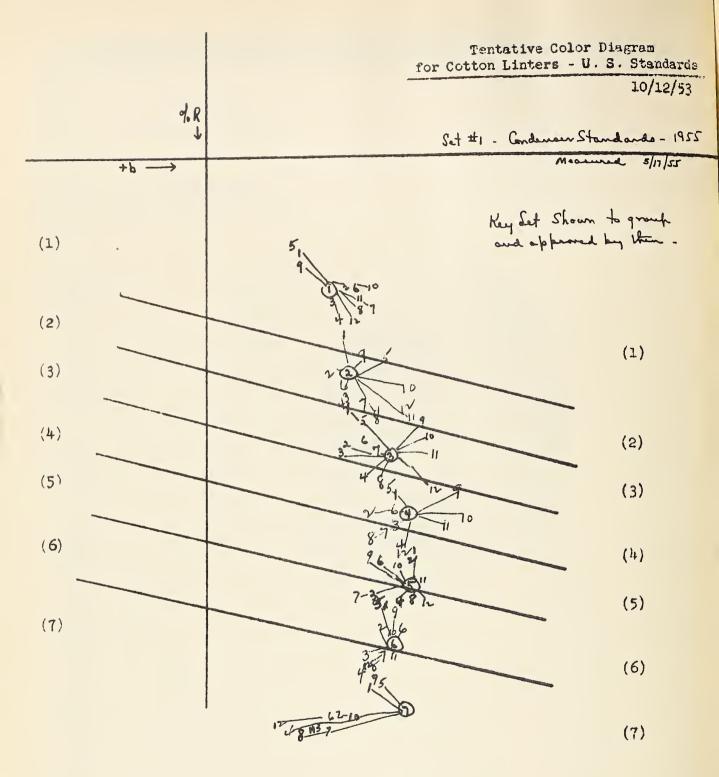


FIGURE 42.--LINTERS STANDARDS FOR CONDENSER TYPE LINT.

Key set shown May 1955 and accepted as guide for passing other 1955 sets. This diagram may be related to the level of the cotton standards diagram by use of the  $R_d$  and +b central crossbars. These are at  $R_d$  = 66.0, and +b = 10.1. The diagram is on the same scale as that used for the cotton standards.

4.Ra

Original -+b -> 5/12/55 2 (after adoption) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7)

FIGURE 43.--LINTERS STANDARDS, COLOR OF ORIGINAL SET FOR FLUE TYPE LINTERS, ADOPTED MAY 1955.

Tentative Color Diagram for Cotton Linters - U. S. Standards Beater Type - 7/55

7. RJ

+b →

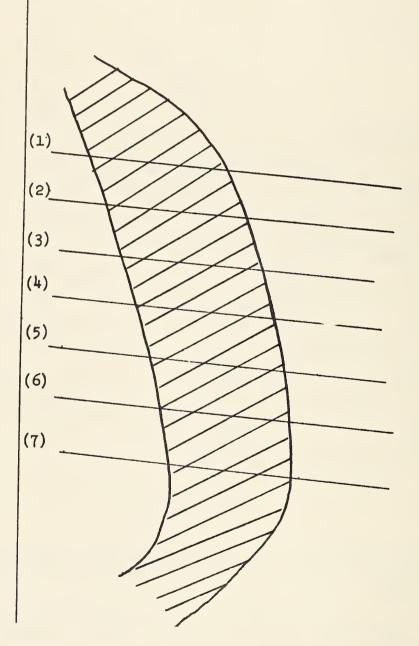


FIGURE 44.--LINTERS STANDARDS DIAGRAM SHOWING COLOR RANGE OF COTTON LINTERS. Crop survey of 1954-55 shown in shaded area.





